

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W
-----026290 192254Z /72

R 191704Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1536
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15436

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GW, NI, SW, RH, SF
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS BONN

REFS: (A) LAGOS 10411 (NOTAL); (B) LAGOS 10491

1. NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GARBA'S VISIT TO BONN
(SEPTEMBER 12-14) IS CONSIDERED AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.
THE FONOFF TELLS US THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, IT WAS
POSSIBLE TO SIT DOWN AND REALLY DISCUSS ARGUMENTS AND
POSITIONS. GARBA APPEARED TO BE A DIFFERENT MAN FROM
THE ONE THE GERMANS MET LAST YEAR; HE WAS REASONABLE,
CALM AND QUITE FORTHCOMING.

2. AS EXPECTED, ONE OF THE MAJOR TOPICS OF DISCUSSION
WAS SOUTHERN AFRICA. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF
GARBA'S COMMENTS:

-- RHODESIA: NIGERIA SUPPORTS THE UK/US INITIATIVE
AND IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN A UN PEACEKEEPING
FORCE EVEN IF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OPPOSES THE PLAN.
GARBA SAID HE HAD MADE THIS CLEAR TO NKOMO; HE TOLD
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NKOMO TO THINK TWICE BEFORE REJECTING THE PLAN.
(GARBA MADE NO MENTION OF MUGABE IN THIS CONTEXT.)
GARBA SEEMED GENUINELY CONCERNED THAT THE ANGOLAN
EXPERIENCE WOULD BE REENACTED IN RHODESIA. IN HIS
VIEW, THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM TO BE OVERCOME WILL
BE THE RELUCTANCE OF EITHER SIDE TO LAY DOWN ITS
ARMS AS PART OF ANY SOLUTION.

-- NAMIBIA: GARBA APPRECIATED THE ROLE OF THE WESTERN FIVE AND SHOWED UNDERSTANDING FOR THE DIFFICULTY OF DEALING WITH BOTH SWAPO AND SAG. THE PLANS FOR THE TRANSITION WERE GOOD, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE'S (UNSR) POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WERE NOT SPELLED OUT. THE GERMANS REPLIED THAT THE UNSR'S POSITION WILL EVOLVE AND EVENTUALLY FAR SURPASS THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL'S (AG) AND THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY, AT THIS STAGE, TO LIMIT THE UNSR WITH DEFINITIONS. GARBA SEEMED PREOCCUPIED WITH THIS PROBLEM AND REMAINED UNCONVINCED. MUCH TO THE GERMAN'S SURPRISE, GARBA SAID HE HAD TOLD NUJUMA TO TALK WITH THE AG. AGAIN HE CITED THE ANGOLAN EXAMPLE.

-- FRG/SAG RELATIONS: GARBA ASKED POINTEDLY WHEN THE FRG WOULD DO SOMETHING TO LIMIT ITS ECONOMIC LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THOSE LINKS, HE SAID, CALL THE FRG'S SINCERITY INTO QUESTION. THE FRG WOULD FIND A MUCH WARMER RECEPTION IN AFRICA IF BONN VISIBLY REDUCED ITS CONTACT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

3. THE SAME FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN GARBA'S TALKS IN BONN ARE CURRENTLY HEAVILY ENGAGED IN THE VISIT OF TOGO'S PRESIDENT EYADEMA. WE
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EXPECT A FULLER READOUT ON GARBA'S DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN15436
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770340-0689
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770946/aaaabmze.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a6b20a42-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LAGOS 10411, 77 LAGOS 10491
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1215146
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS BONN
TAGS: PGOV, GE, NI, SW, RH, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a6b20a42-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009